

"A great ship askes deepe waters"

MOTHERS NEWS

JANUARY 2011

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Previously a bottle of Dr Bronner's 18-in-1 Peppermint Soap

THE PAPER OF RECORD

CUT ME

Well, it's an entire new year. The year is 2011, you have a whole month to not feel too embarrassed about writing the wrong date on a check. It's eleven (or ten?) years after the last time people thought the world was going to end (or get totally messed up), it's one year (one and a half?) before people think the world is going to end (or get super mega messed up). People always think the world is going to end, and someday it will and seriously 100% totally everyone is going to be surprised. At the same time, every intractable second the world ends. In the meantime we keep eating pickled eggs, listening to Vangelis, and cleaning our rooms. Take a deep breath and remember "it's just information intersecting with information".

HOLIDAYS IN JANUARY

January is named after Janus, the Roman god of doorways, who shares a common indo-european archetype with similarly-named Ganesh, Lord Of Obstacles, another liminal god of beginnings et cetera. If you want to get in good graces with these good graces, try... red stuff? I think you use red stuff. Anyway there'll always be red stuff... Might as well try it... New Year's Eve happens on the exact cusp of January, it's the only holiday about the future and how great it's going to be / is. Also it's the only holiday that doesn't even occupy a single second of conventional time.

Also Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Day is on the 3rd Monday of January (the 17th). It's not the only paid national holiday dedicated to someone assassinated by governmental conspiracy, but it is the only one of the modern era.

SPACE NEWS

We're going to have a big sky this year, I can just feel it in my face. Some crisp night you'll be out walking with someone, and there'll be a lull, and you'll say, even though no one is talking, "Hey, shut up" and then stand perfectly still while snow absorbs all sound. Maybe this will happen and then you'll laugh, and they'll say, why did you laugh? You can tell them "I was thinking about Uranus".



SPACE NEWS

Uranus was discovered in 1781 and other names on deck were Herschel and Neptune George III, but they went with Uranus, a Latinization of the greek "Ouranos", Greek deity of the sky, father of Cronus (Saturn) and grandfather of Zeus (Jupiter), and for good or bad that's all there is to it. Official pronunciation puts the accent on the first syllable, but that sounds too much like you're trying to sidestep the obvious, and puts you on the defensive. So for maximum dignity and poetic heft, say it proud as the greeks (might) do, with an accent on the long "ooh": "OOH-rah-nohs". Uranus is visible in dark skies with the naked eye, and with a telescope you might be able to see its brilliant rings arrayed like an archery target, or like looking down on a hula hooper. Uranus rotates on its side, with its axis of rotation nearly parallel with the Sun's equatorial plane, as though literally rolling back and forth across heaven. One Uranian year takes 84 Earth years, during which one side is always in light, and one side is always dark.

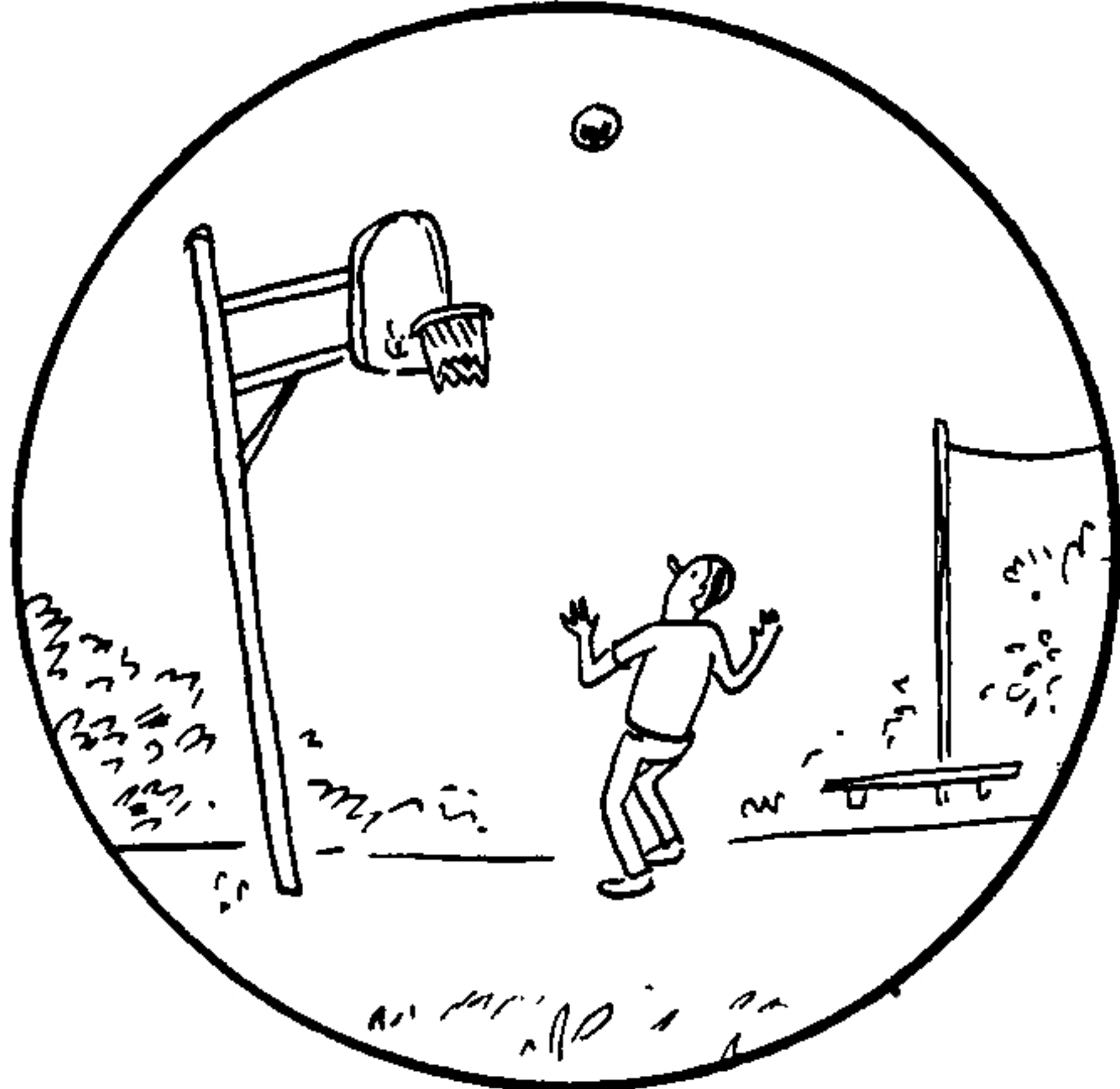
For some modern Western astrologers, Uranus is the ruling planet of the sign of Aquarius. The constellation Aquarius USED TO fulfill this role but guess what assholes, THINGS CHANGE. Due to axial precession (planetary wobble), the stars change their relative position by 1 degree every 74 years, which adds up. So despite living in the age of Aquarius, the constellation Aquarius is basically out of the picture.

The discovery of Uranus occurred just after the founding of the United States, and just at the beginning of the French Revolution. Before this discovery, and for many thousands of years, Saturn was the planetary system's outer limit, and also the outer limit of material existence. Uranus has come to symbolize total and sudden change or upheaval, unpredictability, modern science, anarchy, destruction of the established order, the sixth sense, and things that we are just now starting to think about and describe. Uranus has 27 moons and 11 rings, and is cyan in color. Uranus, among all planets, mostly governs genius. Uranus' embarrassing name is a helpful reminder of the alchemical principle of things, that you poop them out and then how'd they get in the sky like that and what are they doing and what do they know that you don't?

SPACE NEWS

Several astronauts returning from spacewalks have reported that space smells like fried steak and hot metal (specifically motorbikes).

THEE AMBROSE BIERCE MEMORIAL
WORD JUMBLE
by Ambrose Bierce before he died



BIYATDRSU, n. A statement or belief manifestly inconsistent with one's own opinion.

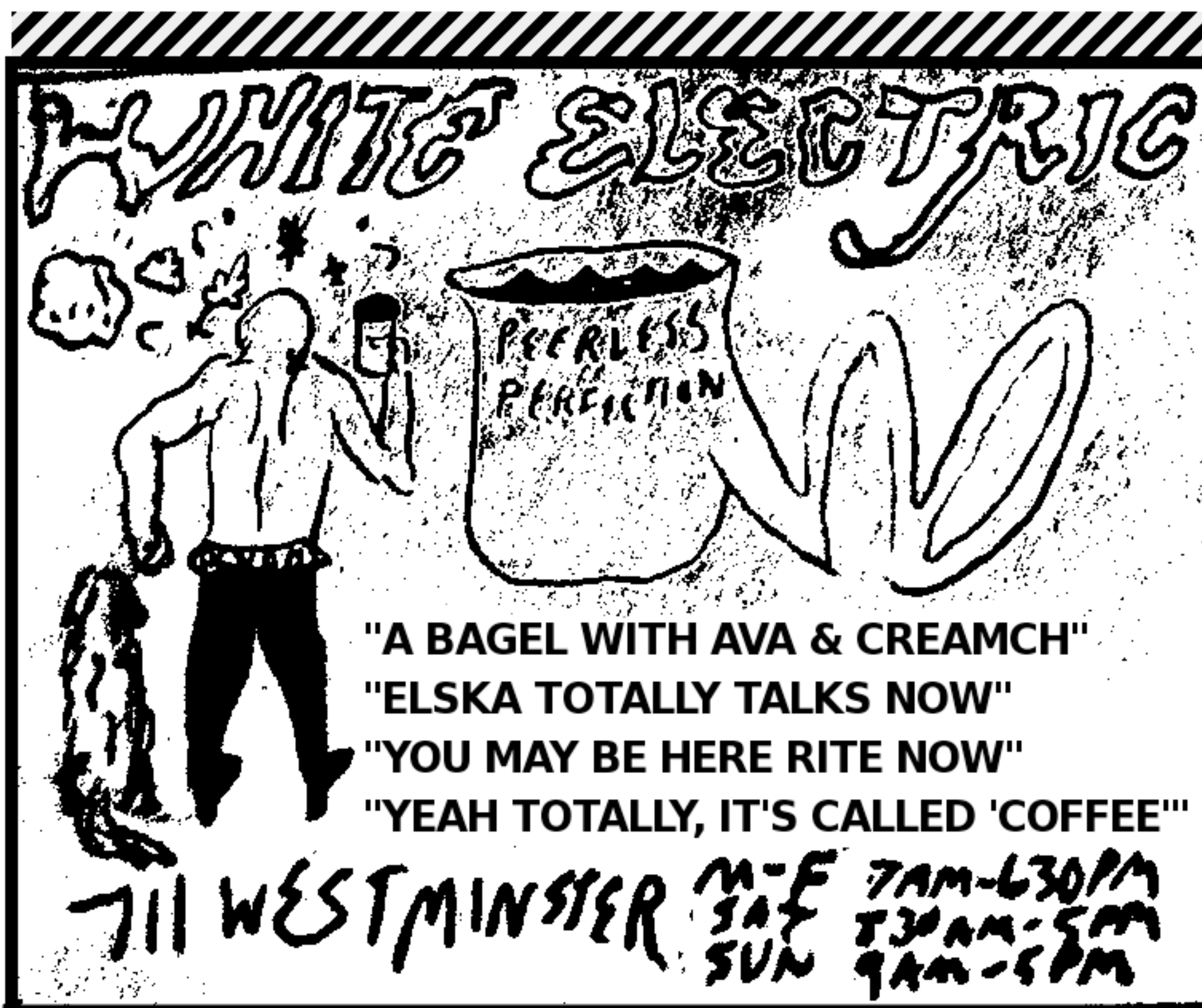
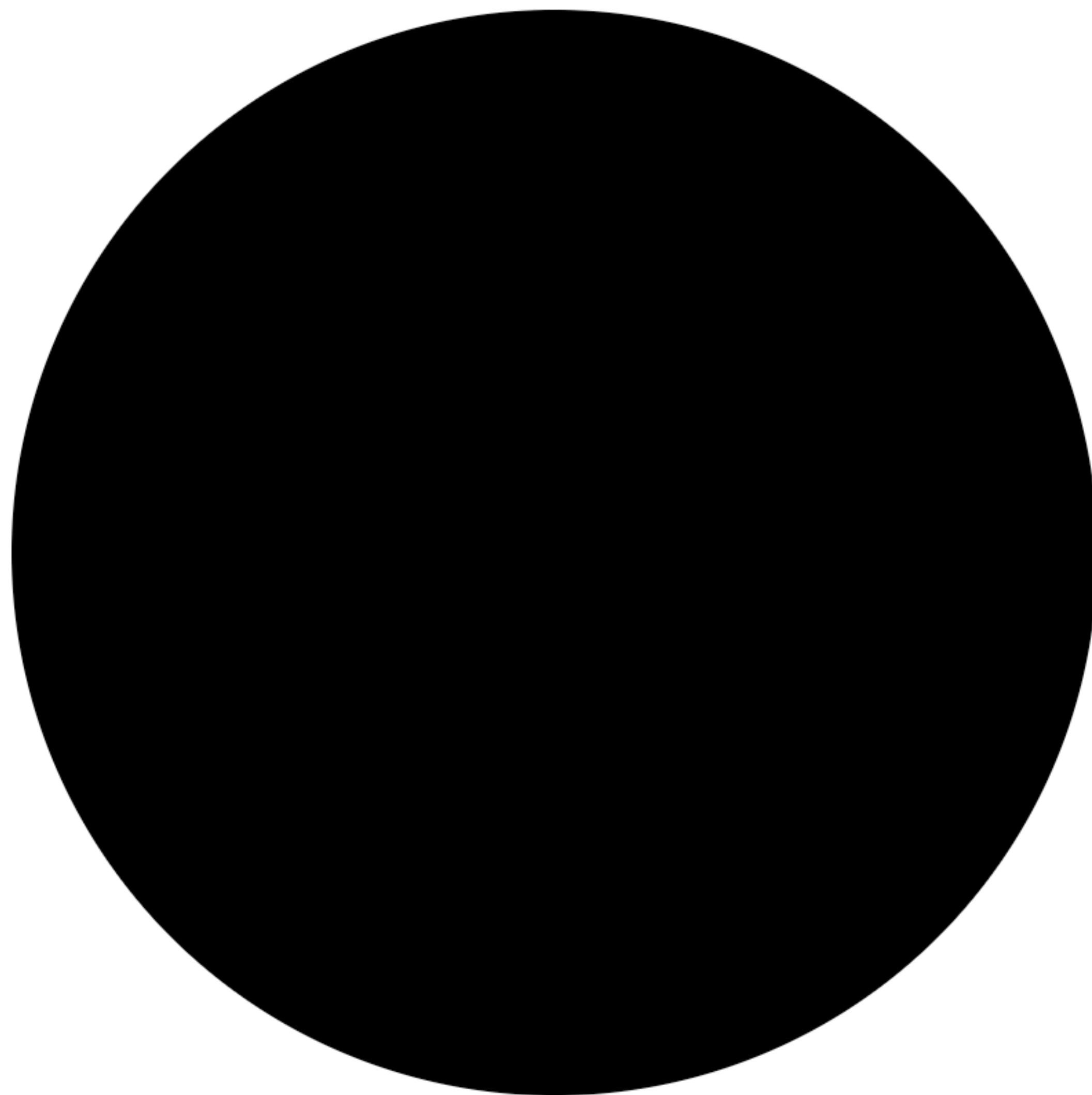
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RATOGAIT, n. A statesman who shakes the fruit trees of his neighbors --to dislodge the worms.

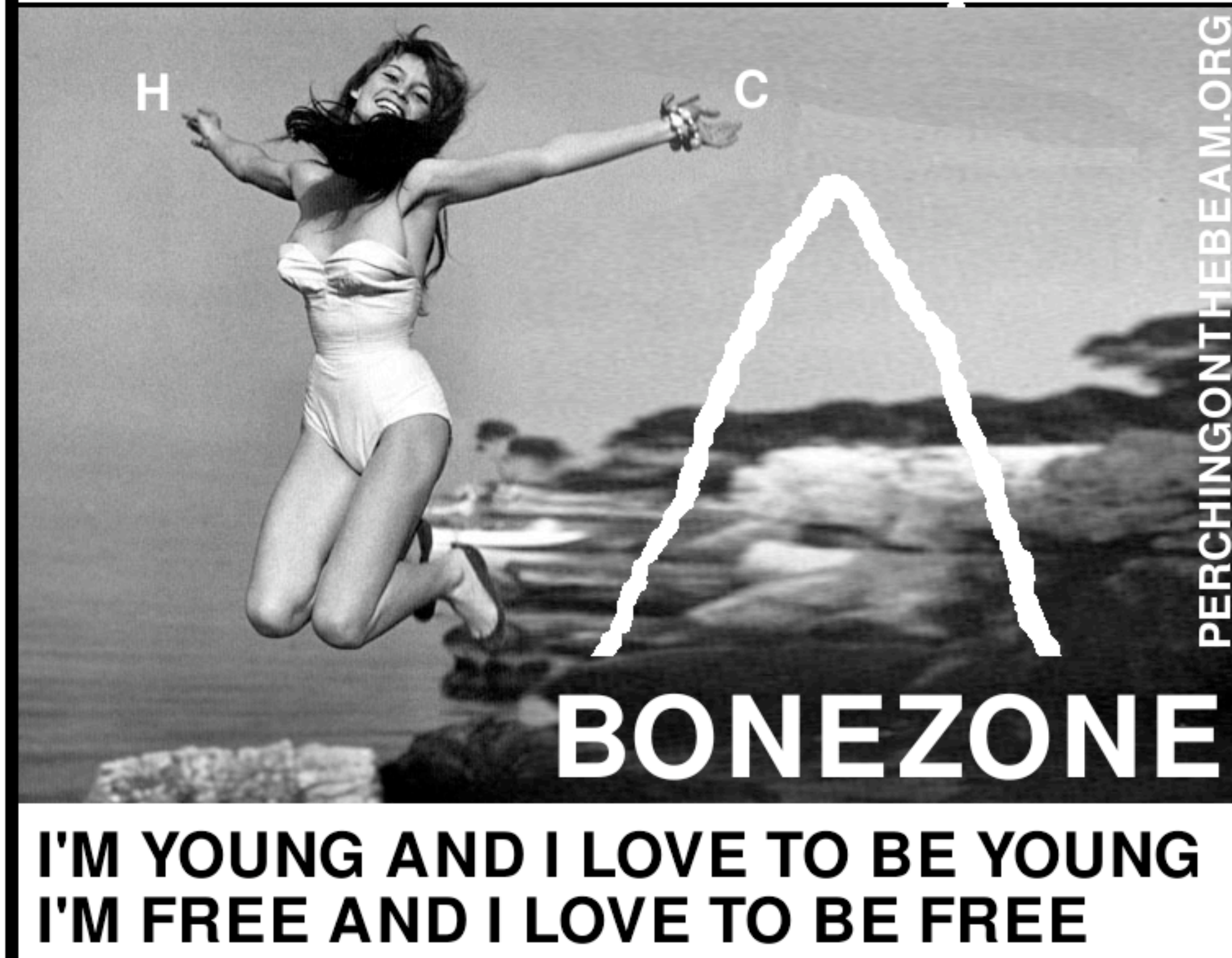
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OLANE, adj. In bad company.

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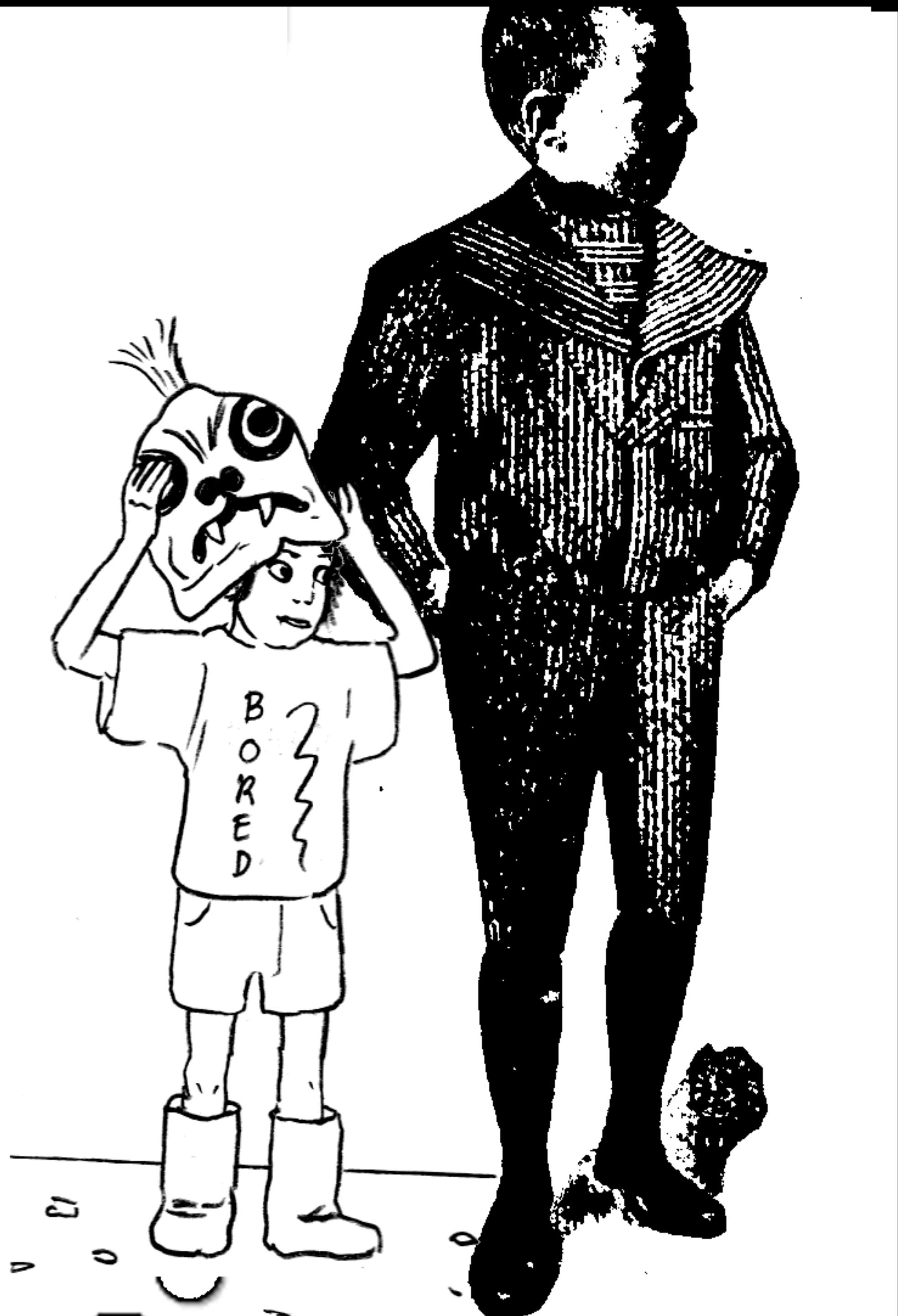


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